AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A surface treating appliance comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis[[,]];

a surface treating head[[,]];

a support assembly which is attached to the handle and arranged to ~~roll~~ rotate with respect to the handle for allowing the appliance to be rolled along a surface[[,]]; and

a linkage between the handle and the surface treating head, the linkage being arranged such that rotating the support assembly and the handle about the longitudinal axis while the appliance is rolled along the surface causes the surface treating head to pivot relative to the support assembly so as to turn in a new direction while remaining substantially in contact with the surface.

2. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1 wherein the linkage is arranged to allow the surface treating head to remain substantially in contact with the surface as the handle is rotated about its longitudinal axis.

3. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1 or 2 wherein an end portion of the linkage nearer to the surface treating head comprises a pivotable connection between the linkage and the surface treating head.

4. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the end portion of the linkage nearest the handle comprises a pivotable connection between the linkage and the handle.

5. (Original) An appliance according to claim 4 wherein the pivotable connection to the handle is substantially aligned with the rotational axis of the support assembly.

6. (Original) An appliance according to claim 5 wherein the linkage comprises a yoke, at least one end portion of which has a pivotable connection to the handle that is substantially aligned with the rotational axis of the support assembly.

7. (Currently Amended) A surface treating appliance comprising a handle having a longitudinal axis, a surface treating head, a support assembly which is attached to the handle and arranged to ~~roll~~ rotate with respect to the handle for allowing the appliance to be rolled along a surface, and a linkage between the handle and the surface treating head, the linkage being arranged such that rotating the support assembly and the handle about the longitudinal axis causes the surface treating head to turn in a new direction,

wherein an end portion of the linkage nearer to the surface treating head comprises a pivotable connection between the linkage and the surface treating head, and

wherein the linkage comprises a locking arm arranged to locate in a notch on the pivotable connection to the surface treating head so as to prevent rotation of the pivotable connection.

8. (Original) An appliance according to claim 7 wherein the locking arm has at least one deformable portion arranged to release from the notch when a predetermined force is applied to the pivotable connection.

9. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 7 wherein the locking arm is arranged to release from the notch when the handle is tilted from an upright position.

10. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 7, wherein the locking arm is biased towards the notch when the handle is in an upright position.

11. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the linkage connects to a central part of the surface treating head.

12. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the linkage connects to the surface treating head by means of a jointed arm, the plane of the joint lying at a non-normal angle to the longitudinal axis of the arm.

13. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the linkage connects to the surface treating head by means of an arm which has an elbow shape and a rotatable joint.

14. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the linkage between the handle and the surface treating head comprises at least one flexible tube.

15. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the support assembly houses at least one component of the appliance.

16. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 15 wherein the support assembly further comprises a fluid inlet for receiving fluid flow and a fluid outlet for exhausting fluid, and the component comprises a device for acting on the fluid flow received through the inlet.

17. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 15 wherein the component comprises a motor for driving a further component of the appliance.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 further comprising a main body located on the handle.

20. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 19 wherein the support assembly comprises one or more rotatable members having an outer surface which defines a rolling support surface in the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the handle, the support surface being symmetrical about the longitudinal axis of the handle.

21. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 20 wherein the support surface extends for a distance which is at least 50% of the width of the main body.

22. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 20 wherein the support surface extends for a distance which is at least 75% of the width of the main body.

23. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 20 wherein the support surface extends for a distance which is substantially equal to the width of the main body.

24. (Original) An appliance according to claim 20 wherein the central region of the support assembly does not have a support surface.

25. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 20 wherein the support assembly includes two rotatable members which are spaced from each other.

26. (Original) An appliance according to claim 25 wherein a component of the appliance is located between the spaced members.

27. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 25 wherein a fluid inlet or outlet is located between the spaced members.

28. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the diameter of the support assembly is less at each end portion than at the central portion.

29. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the support assembly has at least one rotational axis which is transverse to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

30. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the distance between the geometric centre of the assembly and the outer surface is greater at each end portion than at the central portion.

31. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the central portion of the support assembly has a substantially constant diameter.

32. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 wherein the support assembly is substantially spherical in shape.

33. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 3 further comprising a support arm for the surface treating head which extends outwardly from the central region of the support assembly.

34. (Original) An appliance according to claim 33 wherein the support arm is a fluid flow duct for carrying fluid to/from the surface treating head.

35-36. (Canceled)